

ITALIANS WON BACK POSITION ANDEVEN MORE

Retaliated Against the Austrians After Latter's Successful Drive on Val Piccolo and Carried Their Lines Further Toward the Enemy

GERMAN ARTILLERY SHELLING FRENCH

Vienna Declares That Russian Offensive in Galicia Has Slackened—London Tells of Important Smash at the German Lines Near St. Eloi

The infantry continues inactive before Verdun and even the notable artillery fire reported for some days in the Vaux-Douaumont region has slackened. The Germans have resumed heavy fire west of the Meuse, however, shelling the French lines south of Malancourt.

Bitter fighting is again taking place along the Austro-Italian front. The Austrians launched an attack on Val Piccolo, taking a trench; but in counter-attacks the Italians not only succeeded in re-conquering the position but took Austrian trenches elsewhere on the front, according to a Rome report.

Vienna declares that Russian activity in Galicia has slackened, the Russians having attempted no attack against the main army of General Plunger during the past week.

British airmen have made a successful raid on a Turkish advanced base at Bir-El-Hassanah 100 miles east of the Suez canal, according to Suez reports, the aviators dropping 40 bombs and doing extensive damage.

BRITISH ATTACK FORGED WAY INTO GERMAN'S

Look First and Second Line Trenches Over a Distance of 600 Yards in the S. Eloi Region, Says Official London Dispatch.

London, March 28.—The British and Germans have been fighting fiercely in the region of St. Eloi, five miles northwest of Arras, and the British, through the explosion of a big mine and by infantry charges, have captured or destroyed a considerable portion of the German trenches.

The British infantry stormed and took first and second line trenches along a front of 600 yards, London officials announce, and Berlin admits that German trenches in this region were blown up to an extent of 100 yards, and that "casualties were caused among the company occupying the position."

RUSSIAN VICTORIES DECLARED DUE TO PREPONDERANCE

Austrians Claim that Slav Success on the Dneister Was Because Austrians Were Outnumbered.

Berlin, by wireless, March 28.—Only outposts skirmishes have occurred in Galicia during the last few days and the victories reported by the Russians on the Dneister were not gained over large bodies of Austrian troops, says the official report of the war office at Vienna.

ARTILLERY SQUALLS WEST OF MEUSE

But Otherwise There Was Another Calm Night on Verdun Front, Says French Official Statement.

Paris, March 28.—The French official statement this morning says that there was no change in the Verdun region during the night. East of the Meuse all was calm and to the west of the river there were some artillery squalls.

SALONIKI OFFENSE STARTS.

Heavy Artillery is Being Used on Both Sides.

Athens, via Paris, March 28.—Dispatches from Saloniki say that the frontier action which has hitherto been considered merely as trying operations, on the part of the Bulgarians and Germans, are now assuming the character of a general attack against the advanced line of the allies. Considerable vigor is being employed on both sides. It is said that in both military and diplomatic circles of the teutonic allies there is a belief that the long prophesied effort to drive the allies into the sea has begun, but it is pointed out that these circles, in Athens at least, are not in a position to be accurately informed. In essence circles here, while the importance of the increasing activity of the Bulgarians and Germans is not minimized, there is a general conviction that they do not seriously intend to attempt to capture Saloniki.

RAILROADS NEEDED TO AID PURSUIT BY U. S. TROOPS

Military Men at El Paso Point Out That Pursuit Will Be Hampered, If Not Actually Halted, If Lines Are Not Available.

El Paso, Tex., March 28.—The pursuit of Villa may be hampered, if not actually halted, unless the Mexican railroads are made available as main line communication for the American army in Mexico. Military men expressed that view today after studying the dispatches from the front, where Villa still is in full flight southward and meeting little, if any, opposition.

ARE PRESSING CARRANZA

For Immediate Reply to Request for Use of Railroads.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—State department advices from all parts of Mexico to-day gave renewed evidence of quiet acquiescence in the pursuit of Villa by the American troops. Neither the state nor the war department received any messages regarding the use of the Mexican railroads and it is believed that Carranza is withholding his answer until an agreement is reached on the pending protocol.

A memorandum to Carranza, pressing for an immediate reply to the request for permission to use the railroads, was prepared to-day by the state department. The war department is proceeding with the arrangements to buy additional aeroplanes for use on the border.

AIDED VILLA TO ESCAPE.

Carranza Troops Did Not Try to Co-operate with Americans.

San Antonio, Tex., March 28.—Francisco Villa's escape from the region about Nampiquia was preceded by a smart defeat administered by him to a part of the Mexican de facto troops, and was unopposed by other constitutionalist detachments, according to unofficial, but credible reports, reaching here yesterday.

The cordons of Mexican troops that the Mexican authorities announced would be drawn across his path, gave way, according to these reports, indicating their co-operation with Villa rather than with American forces.

United States army officials here were inclined to believe reports of inefficiency and half-hearted co-operation and yesterday complicated the future problem of the second phase operations just inaugurated by the commander of the American punitive expedition.

It was realized here that the early capture of Villa would be little better than an accident. The only hope for an early ending of the chase, it is felt here, is that Carranza's troops will check Villa's flight or that Villa himself, after joining one or more of his wandering bands in southern Chihuahua or from northern Durango, may decide to fight.

That Villa will be able to effect a juncture with a considerable force before he is brought to a stand again is regarded at United States headquarters here as probably.

General Funston probably will go to El Paso, and perhaps to Columbus in a few days for a brief stay.

HOT BATTLE WITH THE BANDITS.

But Latter Finally Drove Off a Number of American Cattle.

El Paso, March 28.—The ranch of C. E. Kelly, former mayor of El Paso, 32 miles east of here, was raided last night by Mexican bandits, who drove off a number of cattle and badly beat the caretaker.

Two detachments of the 8th cavalry are in pursuit of the bandits. One troop started at full gallop from Fabens, two miles from the ranch. The second left Yelita, some miles on the other side, at the same time in an effort to cut them off from the river.

Mr. Kelly was notified by a long distance telephone message from his foreman. The foreman said the raiders were supposed to have come from Guadalupe, across the river from Fabens. The Mexican employees on the ranch held them off in a battle in which more than one hundred shots were exchanged.

HOT IN PURSUIT.

U. S. Cavalry Turn Southwest with Villa's Flight.

Casa Grande, Mex., wireless to Columbus, N. M., March 28.—Villa is fleeing southwest toward the foothills of the Sierras. According to army reports received yesterday the rapidity of his flight is hastening the American pursuit. All arms of the service are being used in an attempt to force the bandit into a corner.

The Mexican residents of this section, which has been ravaged time and time again by Villa's bandits, are freely giving information concerning Villa's flight, supplies, armament and strength to the American military authorities.

While much information has been too indefinite to be of value, it is presumed that the knowledge that the Americans are kept informed as to Villa's movements has influenced the bandit chieftain to the greatest haste in his retreat. Although the United States troops are following closely in his wake, so far, it is stated, no fighting has taken place.

MUCH PESSIMISM FELT

About Prospects of Capturing Villa Very Soon.

El Paso, Tex., March 28.—There is much pessimism in army circles over the prospects of capturing Villa, and it is felt that unless cornered within a week the bandits will have outrun their pursuers and many months may pass before he and his band will be ferreted out of their hiding places. The dispatches from the advanced flying columns pressing Villa closely make no mention of having come in contact with any bandits.

ALL OF CREW WERE SAVED

After Steamer Empress of Midland Was Destroyed

BRITISH SEAMEN TAKEN TO HOLLAND

An Aggregate of 70,000 Tonnage Sunk Since New German Campaign

London, March 28.—Figures on the damage to shipping since the new German submarine campaign was inaugurated show that in less than fortnight vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 70,000 have been sunk, one-third of the tonnage being neutral.

The sinking of the British steamship Empress of Midland was reported to-day in a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam. The steamship Cromer arrived last night at a port in Holland with all the crew of the Midland.

The Empress of Midland sailed from New York on January 5 for Cardiff, Wales, according to the latest reports available.

PERSIAN PRINCE FEARED LOST ON THE SUSSEX

Prince Bahram Was Passenger On the Cross-Channel Steamer When She Was Torn by Explosion.

Paris, March 28.—Prince Bahram of the reigning family of Persia, who was a passenger on the steamer Sussex, which was disabled by an explosion on March 24, is still unaccounted for and it is believed that he was lost.

U. S. INQUIRY IS ALREADY IN GERMANY

Asks If Any of German Vessels Attacked the Steamer Sussex—It Is Not a Protest or a Demand.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—Secretary of State Lansing announced after the cabinet meeting to-day that the United States will immediately make inquiry of the German government whether any of its vessels torpedoed the steamer Sussex. Members of the cabinet said the evidence in the possession of the United States is not conclusive enough to warrant decisive action at this time. It was learned later that the inquiry already had been made and was probably now in Berlin. The present status of the communication is simply an inquiry. It has not advanced to the stage of a protest or demand.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—With all evidence indicating that the British channel steamer Sussex, carrying American citizens, was the victim of a torpedo, it was stated authoritatively here yesterday that if a German submarine made the attack the imperial government would disavow the act, punish the submarine commander, offer reparation and satisfy the United States that the act was in violation of instructions. Thus, it seemed, the case might narrow down to the question of whether the United States would be willing to accept a declaration from the Berlin government.

President Wilson is awaiting with deep concern the receipt of conclusive evidence, not only in regard to the Sussex, aboard which several Americans narrowly escaped death, but as to the sinking of the British steamship Englishman. One American life is said in the latest official reports, to have been lost when the Englishman went down.

Already, it was intimated at the state department, the United States has information sufficient to warrant the making of an inquiry of the German government as to whether any of its submarines fired a torpedo at the Sussex or the Englishman.

PRODDING CONGRESS.

New York Senate Wants Regular Army of 178,000 Men.

Albany, N. Y., March 28.—By a vote of 30 to 15 the Senate last night adopted a resolution introduced by Senator Mills of New York, asking Congress to increase the strength of the regular army to 178,000 men, and opposing the federalization of the state militia.

All the Democrats and two Republicans voted against the resolution. One Democrat refused to vote.

Adoption of the resolution was preceded by a spirited debate which lasted nearly three hours. Opponents of the measure, while agreeing that some form of preparedness was necessary, contended that it was unwise for a state legislature to attempt to instruct Congress.

SUFFRAGE SIDETRACKED

Also Prohibition Before House Judiciary Committee Acts.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—By a vote of 10 to 9, the House Judiciary committee to-day voted to postpone indefinitely the consideration of all suffrage and prohibition proposals now before it.

WON'T RETIRE.

Willard Has No Intention of Quitting the Ring.

Chicago, March 28.—Jesse Willard arrived from New York Saturday with his right hand in bandages. Otherwise he showed no ill effects of his contest with Frank Moran in New York Saturday night.

ONE DEFENDANT RELEASED.

Court Ordered Verdict for Charles Weeks of St. Johnsbury.

Burlington, March 28.—At the conclusion of the plaintiff's testimony yesterday afternoon in the \$10,000 damage suit brought by Gardner B. Arnold of this city against E. X. Somers et al., for the alleged fraudulent sale to him of the New York state rights of the American News Vending Machine company at St. Johnsbury, which is being tried in county court, counsel for the plaintiff rested their case. V. A. Bullard, senior counsel for the plaintiff, whose throat had healed sufficiently since Saturday to allow him to proceed with the case, moved for a discontinuance of the case against Charles Weeks of St. Johnsbury, who was named as one of the co-defendants. The court directed a verdict in favor of Mr. Weeks to be entered by the clerk. Mr. Weeks was a member of the board of directors of the American News Vending Machine company who took office after the actions of the company on which the alleged fraud is based occurred. Counsel for the defendants expect to rest their case to-day and it should reach the jury either late Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning.

Entries of settled and discontinued were made in the following cases: Mary Laflamme vs. John Higgins et al., ejectment; John Forville vs. John Casey, replevin; John Casey vs. John Forville, replevin; and the chancery case of Thomas Reeves et al. vs. William B. Corriemer et al.

RESIGNS UNDER FIRE.

School Janitor Accused of Hugging Girls.

Franklin, N. H., March 28.—The board of education met at Superintendent Keith's office yesterday afternoon to hear charges brought against Janitor Charles M. Sanborn by Mrs. Florence G. Clapp, teacher in grade seven, whose discharge followed her report to the board that Sanborn was hugging school girls.

At the opening of the meeting Sanborn's resignation because of ill health was read, and Dr. G. W. Adams said that inasmuch as the resignation had been accepted, the purpose for which the meeting was called had been removed, to which Mr. Clapp and her counsel, Judge Woodbury, assented. The meeting then adjourned.

Many mothers who crowded the hall outside the office congratulated Mrs. Clapp as she left. Sanborn, who was out on the street Saturday, was not present yesterday.

The board will give Mrs. Clapp a hearing in regard to her dismissal later. Judge Woodbury said yesterday that he would send word to the 16-year-old high school girls and two grade eight girls, 15 and 18, that Sanborn had hugged them against their will.

B. & M. LOSS \$125,000.

Two Freight Sheds and Many Cars Were Burned.

Boston, March 28.—Fire broke out yesterday afternoon in two of the Boston & Maine railroad freight sheds near the Northern station and threatened to spread to nearby structures. Four alarms were sounded as the flames began to make quick headway, although it was stated that they probably could be confined to the two sheds.

After an hour's fight the fire was put under control. All of the merchandise in shed No. 10, adjoining, was damaged. It was stated that no estimate of the loss could be given until clerks checked up on the amount of freight in the buildings.

An official of the company said last night that the loss on the freight alone would be not less than \$125,000 and might be more. In addition, he said, there were probably 50 or 60 cars in the structure, and until further examination disclosed how badly these were damaged and to what extent the building had suffered, it would be impossible to make an accurate estimate of the total loss.

WAS AT TOP OF POLE.

Fred Greenough Grasped a Live Wire at Haverhill.

Haverhill, Mass., March 28.—Fred Greenough, 23 years old, a lineman, was electrocuted at the top of a pole late yesterday afternoon. Though there were signs of life when he was placed in an ambulance, he was dead before he reached the Hale hospital.

Greenough, who was unmarried, lived on Came avenue and was employed by the Haverhill Electric company. While at work on a pole at the corner of Washington street and Florence avenue, Greenough wedged his body between wires and with his bare hand grasped another wire which completed a circuit through his body. The force of the electric shock threw him away from the pole and he fell 30 feet to the ground. Fellow employees carried him from the street and attempted resuscitation.

Medical officials believe that he died from the electric shock but will make an autopsy to decide whether or not he was injured in his fall from the pole sufficiently to cause death.

WILL NOT ALLOWED

Because Alvin P. Cummings Drew It Without Proper Execution.

In probate court at Montpelier the will of Alvin P. Cummings, late of Montpelier, was disallowed because the instrument to decide whether or not he was injured in his fall from the pole sufficiently to cause death.

ASKS FOR DIVORCE.

Guilford Man Alleges Desertion and Seeks Daughter's Custody.

Brattleboro, March 28.—A suit for divorce was filed yesterday by Charles H. Lynde of Guilford, who recently sued Merton G. Doolittle of this town for \$10,000, alleging alienation of the affections of Lynde's wife.

In the divorce petition Lynde alleges desertion. He asks for the custody of a daughter five years old. There are two other daughters, aged three and seven years.

Mrs. Lynde kept house for Doolittle after Miss Ethel Cutler, who had served in that capacity 17 years, left. Letters between Doolittle and Mrs. Lynde, read in a bench of promise suit brought by Mrs. Cutler against Doolittle, were the basis for Mr. Lynde's proceedings.

TRIED TO BURN GIRL IN BED

She Escaped, but Two Others in the House Lost Their Lives

A TANGLED STORY FROM CLEVELAND

Police Placed Four Under Arrest and Put Guard Over the Girl

Cleveland, March 28.—Two persons, it is known, were burned to death to-day when flames swept through an apartment house which was occupied by twenty-five families. Bessie Reimer, a waitress, in whose room the fire started, said a masked man entered her room shortly after midnight, bound and gagged her and fired the apartment. She says she managed to get to her feet and hobble from the room. With many others she was taken down a ladder.

Miss Reimer spent yesterday in a hospital recovering from suffocation resulting from a small fire in her room yesterday morning.

After an investigation the authorities became satisfied that the fire was of incendiary origin and they arrested three men and a woman and placed a police guard over Miss Reimer at the hospital. Nearly all of the five were involved in a white slave investigation a few days ago. In that case the Reimer girl was the alleged victim.

WELL KNOWN WAITSFIELD MAN

Melvin J. Waterman Dropped Dead of Heart Trouble.

Waitsfield, March 28.—The funeral of Melvin J. Waterman, who died suddenly Saturday afternoon, was held yesterday afternoon at his late home, Rev. William A. Remond, pastor of the Congregational church, officiating. The bearers were Henry N. LaMond, Howard Russell, John Niell and George W. Martin, and interment was in the village cemetery.

The funeral was attended by a large number of relatives and friends and representative townsmen. Those from out of town attending are Heber A. Jackson and Mrs. David Smith of Waterville, Mrs. Leonard Freeman and Will Freeman of Warren, Mr. and Mrs. John Niell of East Warren and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Buzzell of Montpelier.

Mr. Waterman was found dead at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon. Roy Heath of East Warren was driving by when he found Mr. Waterman sitting in his sleigh, the robe tucked about him and the reins in his hand. His head was bowed down; otherwise it was hard to realize that life had ceased. Medical aid was called. Drs. W. J. Howard and J. L. Campbell hurried to the scene. The cause of death was pronounced to be heart failure. In February Mr. Waterman had a severe attack of grip and his heart had bothered him for several years. Saturday morning, with the exception of a headache, he seemed to be in his usual physical condition.

Melvin John Waterman was born in Waitsfield March 5, 1848, the son of John and Mary A. (Leach) Waterman. For years he lived on the farm now occupied by Joseph Niell. Later he occupied the residence now owned by Dr. W. J. Howard, and a few years ago he moved to his late residence. He served the town as selectman in 1890-1900. He was one of a family of six children, three of whom survive him, being Alice Boardman, wife of Wilbur W. Joslin, Alona M., widow of Silas J. Rowell of Waterville, and Chase Winfield Waterman, a prominent lawyer in Denver, Col. On Jan. 15, 1873, he was married to Ida I. Campbell, who survives him.

WOULD ACCEPT POSITION.

If Vermont G. A. R. Men Want Him for Commander.

Brattleboro, March 28.—Capt. C. Streeter of Brattleboro is at least a possible candidate for election to the office of department commander of the Vermont G. A. R. at the annual encampment in Burlington, which will be in session April 18 and 19. Capt. Streeter will not enter a contest, but he has the support of some prominent Grand Army men, including Col. Thomas Hannon of the Soldiers' home in Bennington; Gen. T. S. Peck of Burlington, Department Commander George P. Martin of Montpelier and the delegates from Sedgwick post of Brattleboro, of which he is past commander.

Capt. Streeter is president of the Windham County Veterans' association and the First Vermont Cavalry association. He enlisted in Co. F, 1st Vermont cavalry, in Brattleboro and was promoted until he became captain Feb. 2, 1865. While a sergeant he was twice wounded in a battle near Charleston in the Shenandoah valley. He is a pension agent, a real estate agent and a trustee of the Soldiers' home.

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CLAIMS FALSE REPRESENTATION.

Suit of D. H. McDonald vs. Frederick McNeil Is Started.

After Fred L. Laird had been procured as counsel interest was somewhat abated in the case of D. H. McDonald vs. Frederick McNeil, both of Barre town, which was commenced this forenoon in Washington county court, which reopened after the regular two days' recess.

S. Hollister Jackson notified the court at the opening two weeks ago that he withdrew as counsel for the defendant and at that time the defendant stated he would appear pro se. The court room was well filled this forenoon by interested spectators of the proceedings.

The plaintiff seeks to recover \$2,500, claiming that the defendant, and prior to January, 1914, falsely and fraudulently represented to the plaintiff that there existed in the town of Enfield, Penobscot county, Me., a piece of land of \$3,000 value. The plaintiff avers that the defendant represented that the land contained hundreds of white birch, hemlock and pine trees and 25 building lots situated on Cold Stream lake. The representation of the defendant resulted in the plaintiff investing nearly \$2,000 in the land. Suit is now being brought on the ground that the timber is not worth anywhere near what the defendant, according to the allegations, represented, and there are but few lots. John W. Gordon represents the plaintiff.

The following jury is hearing the case: Gay H. House, W. H. Berdon, M. M. Goodell, Carroll Wheeler, A. M. Sawar, B. E. Sanders, A. M. Robinson, T. J. Farrell, Fred E. Cram, Fred Darling, Charles L. Holton and John Holton.

COMES TO BARRE MISSION.

Rev. N. C. Edwall to Become Swedish Pastor April 9.

Adherents of the Swedish Baptist mission on Brook street announced to-day that Rev. N. C. Edwall of Rhode Island has accepted a call to become pastor of the mission in this city and the capital. The call to the Rhode Island clergyman was extended shortly after it became known that the preceding pastor, Rev. John Block, was to resign. It is expected that Rev. Mr. Edwall will begin his work in Barre April 9.

Good wishes and tokens of esteem followed the retiring pastor, Rev. Mr. Bjork, on his way to Rhode Island, where he is to engage in missionary work among the Swedish people. At a farewell reception Saturday evening in honor of Mr. Bjork, many persons not numbered in his own flock joined with his parishioners. One of the enjoyable features came when O. Mellin, speaking for the assembled company, made a presentation to the pastor, who responded feelingly. Montpelier friends of Rev. Mr. Bjork also expressed their appreciation of his services by tendering a reception and presenting him a substantial gift.

MANY ASSOCIATES PRESENT

At the Funeral of Werner E. Beck at Universalist Church.

Various circles of activity were represented among those who gathered in the Universalist church this afternoon at 2 o'clock to attend the funeral of Werner E. Beck, a prominent Barre granite manufacturer, whose death at his home, 21 Branch street, Saturday evening followed a protracted illness. Members of the Republican city committee, the fire department and several fraternal orders were present, among the latter being the Odd Fellows of Minneapolis and Canton, Vinton and Hawabwa lodge, Bright Star Rebekah lodge, the Royal Arcanum and the N. E. O. P. Odd Fellowship honored one of its most active members by sending large delegations of the three organizations to the church. Prior to the church services, there was a brief prayer service at the house.

Rev. J. R. Reardon, pastor of the Universalist church, was the officiating clergyman, and in connection with the church services the ritual of the Odd Fellows was used. The bearers were Chief C. B. Gladding of the fire department and the following employees of Beck & Beck: Thomas G. Bailey, Frank E. Adams, John S. Howell, John Gregware and Thomas Davidson. Interment was made in Hope cemetery.

THREE-CAR SCHEDULE

To Be Used All Day on Traction Line, Beginning Next Thursday.

Asst. Supt. William Corry of the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power company announced to-day that beginning Thursday morning, the old three-car schedule will be run all day instead of during the afternoon as at present. He said that the return to the former schedule is due to the fact that frost is coming out of the ground, making it necessary to run at somewhat slower time. So, beginning Thursday morning, the first car of the Barre will start at 8:15 and thereafter during the day the cars will leave every half-hour, at quarter before and quarter after the hour.

For several weeks the company has been running its afternoon cars on the three-car schedule, two cars being run at other times during the day and in the evening.

DIED OF HEART DISEASE.

George B. Catlin of Burlington Was Ill But Short Time.

Burlington, March 28.—George B. Catlin died late at his home at 292 Pearl street of angina pectoris. Mr. Catlin had been in ill health about a year and a half. Suddenly yesterday afternoon he was seized with a heart attack and expired at 10:15 o'clock.

Mr. Catlin was born in Winooski Feb. 4, 1859, and lived there for some time. He was engaged in the lime business and was a large farm owner. Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Miss Ellen Catlin, for several years in missionary work in Turkey, and Miss Ruth Catlin, who recently went to New York to live.

BOY SHOT IN LEG.

He Was Cleaning 22-Calibre Rifle When Weapon Discharged.

Brattleboro, March 28.—Raymond Crown, aged 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin A. Crown of Frost place, while cleaning a 22-calibre rifle at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Devo of West Dummerston, was accidentally shot in the leg above the knee yesterday afternoon. He was taken to the Memorial hospital where the surgeon said it would not be necessary to extract the bullet.

FREIGHT CLOG AFFECTS BARRE

Many Monument Shipments Are Being Held Up

SHORT OF CARS

Effort Being Made by the Manufacturers to Secure Relief

Through the freight congestion that has developed in all of the larger railroad centers of the East, Barre granite manufacturers, and quarries as well, are faced to face with one of the most serious shipping problems that has arisen in many a day. While the stoppage has worked a hardship on manufacturers of other products from recent weeks that its effects have been acutely felt in the Barre granite belt. And it may be said right here that the problem is being presented to the producers in its gravest aspects. Thousands of dollars worth of finished stone is piling up in the sheds and the prospects for shipment are not at all promising.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, the Granite Manufacturers' association is to carry the burden of its complaint before the officials of the Central Vermont railroad this week in an effort to have conditions alleviated, if only in a measure. In its larger aspects the present state of affairs involves not only a heavy financial loss for the manufacturer, but it carries with it the possibility that a partial suspension of operations will follow if relief does not come. Business conditions, so far as the general employment of labor is concerned, are not exactly what the optimistic would like to see and unless the channels of transportation are opened in the near future, instead of improving, conditions will grow worse. There are varied reasons for believing that the approach of summer will see a pronounced quickening of industrial activity in the granite belt, but the freight embargo that exists to-day will not hasten the return of normal conditions.

Barre shippers are pining some faith on the outcome of a conference of railroad men in New York, in which the Central Vermont road is represented by its general freight agent, N. W. Hawkes, whose return to Vermont to-day or tomorrow will be the signal for a conference between the manufacturers here and the railroad officials. An effort is being made to secure a routing through Albany and Buffalo for granite shipments, and if the way is opened for